

104TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. CON. RES. 213

Concerning the urgent need to improve the living standards of those South Asians living in the Ganges and the Brahmaputra River Basin.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

SEPTEMBER 12, 1996

Mr. BEREUTER (for himself and Mr. BERMAN) submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was referred to the Committee on International Relations, and in addition to the Committee on Banking and Financial Services, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

Concerning the urgent need to improve the living standards of those South Asians living in the Ganges and the Brahmaputra River Basin.

Whereas some 400,000,000 people live in Bangladesh, northern India, and Nepal near the Ganges and Brahmaputra Rivers and their tributaries;

Whereas these people comprise the largest concentration of poor people in the world;

Whereas this region lacks the resources, especially the infrastructure, that can pull its residents out of poverty;

Whereas almost every year flooding by the Ganges and Brahmaputra Rivers produces death and destruction, sometimes on a vast scale;

Whereas during the dry seasons, water supplies do not meet the needs of the region's people, especially farmers;

Whereas despite these problems, the region has great potential for development;

Whereas Bangladesh, India, and Nepal have recognized for many years that the water resources of the region, if properly managed, could contribute greatly to the welfare of millions of people in the region; and

Whereas recent elections in India and Bangladesh, and recent treaties signed between India and Nepal, appear to offer new opportunities for all three countries to make progress in addressing this issue: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate*
2 *concurring)*, That the Congress—

3 (1) urges the Governments of Bangladesh,
4 India, and Nepal to redouble their efforts to devise
5 development projects that could relieve the poverty
6 of those people living in the Ganges and Brahmaputra
7 River Basin and address the critical problems
8 of flooding and drought; and

9 (2) encourages international financial institu-
10 tions, such as the World Bank and the Asian Development
11 Bank, and the international community to

- 1 offer whatever advice, encouragement, and assist-
- 2 ance is appropriate to help in this effort.

